

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 240381
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY LFLEISCHER
APPROVED BY LFLEISCHER
-----089778 061447Z /41
O 061428Z OCT 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240381

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 7608 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY INFO
SECSTATE OCT 6.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7608

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, OCTOBER 6

1. MY WIFE AND I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS
HOSPITAL ROOM THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST. HE WAS IN
FINE SPIRITS AND SEEMED PHYSICALLY MUCH RESTED SINCE
THE DAY HE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL LAST FRIDAY. HE AND HIS
DOCTOR, WAS WAS PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY, CONFIRMED THAT HE
IS SUFFERING FROM A RECURRENCE OF PERICARDITIS, AN IN-
FLAMMATION OF THE HEART LINING, THE SAME AILMENT WHICH
AFFLICTED HIM AT THE END OF MAY. APPARENTLY THIS CONDI-
TION IS READILY TREATED WITH DRUGS, BUT IS SUBJECT TO
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RECURRENCE.

2. DR LANIADO, HIS PHYSICIAN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE
CARDIOLOGY UNIT AT ICHILOV HOSPITAL, SAID HE WAS NOW
CONFIDENT THAT MY MEETING WITH BEGIN LAST FRIDAY WAS
NOT THE CAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS, SINCE IT HAD CLEARLY
BEGUN SOME DAYS EARLIER. BEGIN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD

BEEN COMPLAINING TO HIS DOCTOR FOR ABOUT A WEEK THAT "HE JUST DID NOT FEEL RIGHT". SINCE NONE OF THEIR TESTS SHOWED ANYTHING WRONG, THEY "KEPT TELLING HIM HE WAS MISTAKEN". HE WILL NOW REMAIN IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, IN ORDER TO HAVE ADDITIONAL TREATMENT WHICH MAY HELP TO PRECLUDE RECURRENCE OF THE CONDITION.

3. BEGIN HAS TALKED FREQUENTLY WITH DAYAN BY TELEPHONE DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS. HE SEEMS PLEASED WITH THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER WHICH WAS AGREED BETWEEN DAYAN AND THE SECRETARY TUESDAY NIGHT, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT IT MAY NOT PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE ARABS AND THAT FURTHER MODIFICATIONS MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. THUS FAR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EHRLICH AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE HURWITZ ARE THE ONLY TWO CABINET MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEEN THE TEXT OF THE WORKING PAPER. (HURWITZ HAPPENED TO BE VISITING BEGIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM WHEN HE WAS BRIEFING EHRLICH.) BEGIN SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THE TEXT VERY TIGHT. HE AND I AGREED THAT THE PRESS STORIES ABOUT THE WORKING PAPER NOW APPEARING HERE ARE WILDLY SPECULATIVE AND WRONG IN MANY DETAILS. I DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY LEAK FROM HERE, AT LEAST THUS FAR.

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RM BEGIN CONFIRMED THAT DAYAN WILL RETURN TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 11, FROM NEW YORK. THE REGULAR SUNDAY CABINET MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR 6 PM, TUESDAY EVENING, AT WHICH TIME DAYAN WILL EXPLAIN IN DETAIL TO HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK AND THEIR OUTCOME. BEGIN SAID THAT HE AND DAYAN WOULD WANT TO SEE ME THE FOLLOWING MORNING, OCTOBER 12, TO GIVE ME THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE. IT IS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT WE WILL HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE ISRAELIS UNTIL THAT TIME.

5. AS WE LEFT, BEGIN EXPRESSED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION HIS PLEASURE AT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND THE GREAT COURTESY AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS DISPLAYED TO DAYAN. WE AGREED THAT WHILE MANY PROBLEMS OBVIOUSLY STILL REMAIN, SOME IMPORTANT MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAVE BEEN DISPELLED AND GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. LEWIS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HEALTH, CAT-A, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE240381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770006-0253
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771086/aaaacvpc.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 907ce634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1008676
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, OCTOBER 6
TAGS: OVIP, TBIO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (VANCE, CYRUS), (BEGIN, MEHAHEM)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/907ce634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009